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Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, CAPT Albert L. Hill, of the Chaplain Corps, United States Navy. He is stationed at the Naval Amphibious Base at Little Creek, VA.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, Lord of the nations, we, the people of this Nation, give You our thanks for the existence of our Senate. We lift up to You once again these 100 men and women we have selected from among us to serve in this place—to be the Senators who craft our laws and attend to our well-being as a people and a nation.

Amid the complexity and confusion of competing perspectives, attune their thoughts and their actions to Your Divine will so that each and all may speak what is true and do what is right and good. Sustain their patience and respect for those with whom they disagree, and provide them humility in the expression of their own convictions, recognizing the limitations of all human knowledge and understanding. Protect them and their loved ones from danger and disease. Shelter them from the pressures that every moment press in and down upon them so that they may always have room to breathe and time to think. Give to each man and woman in this Senate at least one moment of pure and honorable joy today, to restore a hopeful spirit in the midst of weary work.

Wise and gracious God, make this Senate a blessing to the Nation and to all the peoples of the world. Hear us and grant this prayer for the sake of Your glory. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, the Senate will conduct a period of morning business until 2 p.m. I ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 150, a bill relating to the taxation of Internet access. I remind my colleagues that the moratorium on these taxes expired last year. Last year we began consideration of the bill; however, it was set aside to allow the principals involved in the legislation an opportunity to try to negotiate a resolution. I have put everyone on notice that we would resume consideration this week, and it is time to proceed with this important legislation.

I had hoped the Senate would resume the bill today; however, there was an objection to proceeding from both sides of the aisle. Therefore, today, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate will conduct a rollcall vote on invoking cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 150. I encourage Members to allow us to go forward and begin consideration of this bill.

Members may want to offer other alternatives to the underlying moratorium; therefore, I hope that cloture can be invoked so we can allow amendments to come forward. If we are able to proceed to the bill, then I expect

amendments and votes throughout this week, with the expectation of finishing the bill prior to the week's end.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, equally divided.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERNET TAXATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this week the Senate will spend most of its time on the question of taxation of the Internet. Having been the principal sponsor of the legislation on this subject in the Senate twice, I would be the first to say this subject inherently is about as interesting as prolonged root canal work. But at the same time, I think it is fair to say the decisions the Senate makes with respect to this subject will say a whole lot about the future of the Internet.

For example, the decisions will determine, to some extent, whether e-mail

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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